

54<sup>0</sup> Gt. Brit. & Ireland. - Army  
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A D V I C E

TO THE  
O F F I C E R S  
O F T H E  
B R I T I S H A R M Y.

RIDICULUM ACRI  
FORTIUS ET MELIUS PLERUMQUE SECAT RES.

*Safe from the Bar, the Pulpit and the Throne,  
Yet touch'd and mov'd by Ridicule alone.*

A NEW IMPRESSION, with considerable  
Additions.

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# C O N T E N T S.

	PAGE.
<i>INTRODUCTION, - -</i>	1
CHAP. I. <i>To Commanders in Chief,</i>	4
CHAP. II. <i>To General Officers on the Staff, - - - - -</i>	20
CHAP. III. <i>To Aid-de-Campss of general officers, - - - - -</i>	25
CHAP. IV. <i>To Colonels and Lieutenant-Colonels commanding corps, - - - - -</i>	31
CHAP. V. <i>To Majors, - - -</i>	40
CHAP. VI. <i>To the Adjutant, -</i>	45
CHAP. VII. <i>To the Quarter-Master,</i>	51

	PAGE.
CHAP. VIII. <i>To the Surgeon.</i>	- 57
CHAP. IX. <i>To the Chaplain,</i>	- 64
CHAP. X. <i>To the Paymaster,</i>	- 69
CHAP. XI. <i>To Young Officers,</i>	- 72
CHAP. XII. <i>To the Serjeant-Major,</i>	86
CHAP. XIII. <i>To the Quarter-master</i> <i>Serjeant,</i>	- - - - 89
CHAP. XIV. <i>To the Serjeant,</i>	- 96
CHAP. XV. <i>To the Corporal,</i>	- 106
CHAP. XVI. <i>To the Drum-Major,</i>	112



ADVICE

## INTRODUCTION.

**I**T may, perhaps, to many persons appear quite needless to publish any new systems of advice, after the infinite number that have already made their appearance in the world: for, besides those so distinguished in the title-page, all the treatises on ethics, as well as the sermons of our divines, and the systems of œconomy and politeness, may be ranked under that denomination. It is an old observation, that there are more ready to give, than to take, advice; and, in the same manner, we may assert, without going far beyond the bounds of truth, that there are at present, in the world, more authors than readers. The particular branch too, to which this little work

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is addressed, has not been neglected; and it is an officer's own fault, if he is not sufficiently informed of his duty: books enough have been published on the subject, from those of Arrian, Onofander, and Vegetius, down to our modern systems of military discipline, to fill a bookseller's shop; which any one may be convinced of, who will give himself the trouble of going to Charing-cross. As the world in general does not seem to have become more wise or virtuous, in consequence of the numberless volumes that have been written for their instruction and improvement; so it does not appear that the different military publications within this last century have added either to the knowledge or capacity of our generals, or to the good conduct or discipline of our armies. Convinced as we are, then, of the futility of all former attempts, why enter on a fresh one? Does the author flatter himself, that he possesses more powers

powers of persuasion than his brethren? No. But he has discovered the sole reason why other advisers have been so little attended to: namely, because they have laid down a line of conduct in direct opposition to the inclination of their readers. Now, he has pursued a very different method; has endeavoured to season his admonition to their appetites: and though he cannot expect to have so many readers, he doubts not but that his precepts and maxims will have more followers, than those of Socrates or Epictetus, or any other moralist, who has undertaken the arduous task of reforming mankind.

Different maxims being adapted to the different ranks, he has addressed himself separately to each, from the commander in chief of an army, down to the lowest order of non-commissioned officers. It may be judged a piece of presumption to offer instructions to



commanders, who have grown grey in the service, and must be supposed to have already acquired sufficient experience and knowledge of their business. How far our generals may have had experience in their profession, or how far they may stand in need of advice, the author will not pretend to determine: he is, indeed, apt to imagine, that *some of them* are fully acquainted with his maxims, and have taken care, in the course of their command, to put them in practice. Such gentlemen may spare themselves the trouble of perusing them: he professes to write only for the instruction of the inexperienced and the uninformed.

A D V I C E  
TO THE  
O F F I C E R S  
O F T H E  
B R I T I S H A R M Y.

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C H A P T E R I.

*To General Officers, commanding in  
Chief.*

A Commander in chief is to the army under his command, what the soul is to the body : it can neither think nor act without him ; and, in short, is as perfect a non-entity without its commander, as a wife is without her

her husband. You must, therefore, through pure good-will and affection for your troops, take care of your own sacred person, and never expose it to any dangers. You have not arrived at this rank without knowing the folly of knocking one's head against a post, when it can be avoided. When any service of danger is to be performed, you should send your second in command, or some inferior officer—but whomsoever you send, if he succeeds in the business, be sure to take all the merit of it to yourself.

You must be as absolute in your command, and as inaccessible to your troops, as the Eastern sultans, who call themselves the Lord's vicegerents upon earth. In fact, a commander in chief is greater than a sultan; for if he is not the Lord's vicegerent, he is the King's, which in the idea of a military man, is much better.

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As no other person in your army is allowed to be possessed of a single idea, it would be ridiculous, on any occasion, to assemble a council of war, or, at least, to be guided by their opinion: for, in opposition to yours, they must not trust to the most evident perception of their senses. It would be equally absurd and unmilitary to consult their convenience; even when it may be done without any detriment to the service: that would be taking away the most effectual method of exercising their obedience, and of perfecting them in a very considerable branch of military discipline.

You have heard that secrecy is one of the first requisites in a commander. In order, therefore, to get a name for this great military virtue, you must always be silent and sullen, particularly at your own table; and I would advise you to secure your secrets the more effectually, by depositing  
them

them in the safest place you can think of; as, for instance, in the breast of your wife or mistress.

Ignorance of your profession is likewise best concealed by solemnity and silence, which pass for profound knowledge upon the generality of mankind. A proper attention to these, together with extreme severity, particularly in trifles, will soon procure you the character of a good officer.

It is your duty to be attentive to the public good, but not without some regard to your own, in your dispensation of favours. You must take care never to advance an officer above one step at a time, however brilliant his merit, unless he be your relation: for you must consider, that your ignorance in the higher branches of your profession can only be covered by the strictest attention to punctilio, and the *minutiae* of the service.

As



As you probably did not rise to your present distinguished rank by your own merit, it cannot reasonably be expected that you should promote others on that score.

Above all, be careful never to promote an intelligent officer; a brave, chuckle-headed fellow will do full as well to execute your orders. An officer, that has an iota of knowledge above the common run, you must consider as your personal enemy; for you may be sure he laughs at you and your manœuvres.

A principal part of your duty is to see justice distributed among your troops. Military law being so summary and concise, you will not find this a difficult matter: but if, simple as it is, you should be entirely unacquainted with it, you may substitute your own good will and pleasure—and that, in fact, must be justice; for a

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commander in chief is as infallible as the Pope, and, being the King's representative, he can do no wrong, any more than his royal master.

In distributing justice, you must always incline a little to the strongest side. Thus, if a dispute happens between a field officer and a subaltern, you must, if possible, give it in favour of the former.—Force is indeed the ruling principle in military affairs; in conformity to which the cannon have been called, ever since their first invention, the *ratio ultima regum*.

Subordination being highly necessary in an army, you must take care to keep a proper distance, first between yourself and your secretary, then between your secretary and the general officers on the staff; and so on to the last link in the military chain.

Though you are not to allow swearing in others, it being forbidden by the

the articles of war, yet by introducing a few oaths occasionally into your discourse, you will give your inferiors some idea of your courage ; especially if you should be advanced in years : for then they must think you a dare-devil indeed. I would recommend it to you to make use of some oath or execration peculiar to yourself, in imitation of Queen Elizabeth and Captain Bobadil ; as, “ I hope to be damned,” or any other equally expressive of your future wishes or expectations.

Remember that ease and convenience are apt to render soldiers effeminate ; witness Hannibal’s army at Capua. Never, therefore, let the troops have comfortable quarters ; and as money, according to Horace, lowers a man’s courage, be sure to cut off every emolument from your army, to prevent the impediment of a full purse. No persons will behave so desperately in action as those who are tired of

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their

their lives ; *Ibit eò quò vis qui zonam perdidit*—and the more you pinch the army under your command, the more you may appropriate to your own use: your country can afford to make you the handsomer allowance.

If you serve under a ministry, with whom œconomy is the word, make a great bustle and parade about retrenchment ; it will be prudent for you, likewise, to put it, in some measure, into practice ; but not so as to extend to your own perquisites, or those of your dependents. These savings are best made out of the pay of the subaltern officers and private soldiers ; who, being little able to bear it, will of course make much complaint of it, which will render your regard to œconomy the more conspicuous. And though your pay-master, or commissary-general, may touch more than the amount of all that you retrench from the body of the army, no matter, if  
you

you go snags with them: the public need know nothing about it, if they are but snug, and learn how to keep their own secrets.

Should the duties bear hard on any particular corps, never attend in the least to their representations. Remonstrances are the forerunners of mutiny; and it is the highest insult to your rank and command to insinuate that you are not infallible. This rule, however, may be dispensed with, when the colonel or commanding-officer happens to be a peer or a man of great interest.

Be sure to give out a number of orders. It will at least shew the troops you do not forget them. The more trifling they are, the more it shews your attention to the service; and should your orders contradict one another, it will give you an opportunity of altering them, and find subject for fresh regulations.

You



You will doubtless soon learn what to do with the secret-service money. The gullibility of the ministers at home may perhaps induce them to believe, that this is all expended on spies, on gaining intelligence, and other public interests. So a part of it is, however small; but there are other services equally secret, and no less important—to the commander in chief, which must be supplied from this fund, especially if he has passed his grand climacteric. In this you cannot be said to cheat the public; for you give them the real state of the expence; so that there is no knavery or collusion in the matter.

You should have a clever secretary to write your dispatches in case you should not be so well qualified yourself. This gentleman may often serve to get you out of a scrape. You must take pains so to interlard your letters with technical terms, that neither the public,

public, nor the minister to whom they are addressed, will understand them; especially if the transactions you are describing be trivial: it will then give them an air of importance. This is conformable to the maxim in epic and dramatic poetry, of raising the diction at times to cover the poverty of the subject.

In your first official letter you must ingraft a tolerable number of French words, though there be English ones equally à propos, to give people an idea of your military talents: but then you should take care to keep up the same spirit of writing, otherwise people may imagine, that your abilities and your language are exhausted together.

If upon service you have any ladies in your camp, be valiant in your conversation before them. There is nothing pleases the ladies more than to hear

hear of storming breaches, attacking the covert-way sword in hand, and such like martial exploits. This however I only recommend at night over the bottle: it cannot be expected that you should be so valiant and blood-thirsty, upon mature deliberation, the next morning; that, indeed, would be murder in cold blood.

Nothing is so commendable as generosity to an enemy. To follow up a victory, would be taking the advantage of his distress. It will be sufficient therefore for you to shew, that you can beat him when you think proper. Besides, giving your enemy too severe a drubbing may put an end to the war, before you have feathered your nest handsomely, and provided for your relations and dependants.

When you have occasion to put into winter quarters or cantonments in an enemy's country, you should place  
your

your worst troops, or those you can least depend upon, in the out-posts: for if the enemy should form the design of cutting them off, though he would be the more likely to succeed in it, yet the loss, you know, is of the less consequence to your army.

When an inferior general is to be detached upon an expedition, be sure to send the most ignorant and inexperienced; for he stands the most in need of a lesson.

You should always act openly and fairly both with friends and foes. Never therefore steal a march, or lay in ambush; neither should you fire upon or attack your enemy in the night. If you have read Pope's translation of Homer, you may remember what Hector says, when about to fight with Ajax:

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—Open be our fight, and bold each blow,  
I steal no conquest from a noble foe.

If you are pursuing a retreating enemy, let him get a few days march a-head, to shew him that you have no doubt of being able to overtake him, when you set about it: and who knows but this proceeding may encourage him to stop? After he has retired to a place of security, you may then go in quest of him with your whole army.

It will be your own fault, if you do not make a fortune in the course of your command. When you come home, you have nothing to do but to enjoy *otium cum dignitate*. I would have you build a villa, and, in imitation of the great Duke of Marlborough, call it by the name of the most considerable victory you have gained. If you have gained no victory, you may perhaps have taken some town  
without



without ramparts or garrison to defend it; which, if it has but a sounding name, the public will give you as much credit for, as they would for Lisle, or Bergen-op-Zoom.

If you should ever be called into the service again, you will be too wise from your past experience to go and expose your old bones in Germany, America, or the Indies. So I would advise you to get the command of a camp or district in old England; where you may enjoy all the pomp and parade of war, and, at the same time, be tolerably secure from those hard knocks which your necessities impelled you to risk in your younger days.

## C H A P. II.

*To General Officers upon the Staff.*

**N**Otwithstanding your distinguished rank in the army, whether you are a general, a lieutenant-general, a major-general, or a brigadier, you are no more to the commander in chief than a petty nabob is to the Great Mogul. If ever you wish to rise a step above your present degree, you must learn that maxim in the art of war, of currying favour with your superiors ; and you must not only cringe to the commander in chief himself, but you must take especial care to keep in with his favourites, and dance attendance upon his secretary.

The more servility and fawning you practise towards those above you, the more you have a right to exact from  
those

those beneath you. You must therefore take care to let all the subalterns know what respect is due to a general officer.

If any appointments, such as extra-engineer, brigade-major, inspector of the works, or brigade-commissary, happen to fall within your disposal; be sure to give them all in your own regiment, and to persons who do not want them, and are incapable of doing the business. The less they are qualified to act, the greater the obligation to you, and the more evident the demonstration of your power. It will shew that your favour is sufficient to enable a man to hold and to discharge any office, however deficient his knowledge of the duties.

Nothing shews a general's attention more than requiring a number of returns, particularly such as it is difficult to make with any degree of accuracy.

Let

Let your brigade-major, therefore, make out a variety of forms, the more red lines the better: as to the information they convey, that is immaterial; no one ever reads them, the chief use of them being to keep the adjutants and serjeants in employment, and to make a perquisite to your valet-de-chambre, who can sell them at the snuff-shop or to the grocer.

Whenever you are to review a regiment under your command, a short time before the review enquire the particular mode of exercise which the regiment has been accustomed to, and oblige them to alter it for one quite different. This will shew you are acquainted with the *minutiae* or elements of the military science, as well as the *Grand Tactick*. Thus, if the regiment has been accustomed to mark the cadence with the left foot, order them to do it with the right. Change the time of the manual; and make other  
alte-

alterations of equal importance. It will occupy the attention of the foldier, and prevent him from falling into idleness, the source of all evil.

If it should happen to rain when you are reviewing the troops, I would recommend it to you to provide yourself with a *parapluie*, and not imitate the conduct of an Irish general, who, at a late review of the volunteers at Waterford, walked along the line with his hat off, during an incessant shower of rain. A general's person is to be secured as well from the fury of the elements, as from that of the enemy's cannon. Besides, though we may admit the texture of your skull to be equally substantial, yet as you have seen some service, it may not require quite so much cooling as that of the Hibernian general.

If you should command in a fortress that is laid siege to, you must reserve  
your



your fire to the last, that your ammunition may not be exhausted: besides firing upon the enemy would so retard their progress, that your garrison might be starved into a capitulation, before you could have a fair opportunity of beating them.

But where an enemy thinks himself able to besiege you in a fortress, the best and safest way to convince him of his mistake, is to march out and give him battle.

You may sometimes, however unfit for it, be entrusted with the command of an expedition. In this case, I dare say you will take care to assume all the privileges of a commander in chief: I shall therefore refer you to some of the hints addressed to that officer in the last article.

## C H A P. III.

*To Aid-de-Camps of General Officers.*

**A**N aid-de-camp is to his general what Mercury was to Jupiter, and what the jackall is to the lion. It is a post that very few can fill with credit, and requires parts and education to execute its duties with propriety. Mistake me not; I do not mean that you are to puzzle your brain with Mathematicks, or spoil your eyes with poring over Greek and Latin. Nor is it necessary you should understand military manœuvres, or even the manual exercise. It is the graces you must court, by means of their high priest, a dancing-master. Learn to make a good bow; that is the first grand essential; the next is to carve and hold the toast; and if you aspire to great eminence, get a few French

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and German phrases by rote : these, besides giving you an air of learning, may induce people to suppose you have served abroad. Next to these accomplishments, the art of listening with a seeming attention to a long story, will be of great use to you ; particularly if your general is old, and has served in former wars, or has accidentally been present at any remarkable siege or battle. On all occasions take an opportunity of asking him some question, that may lead him to describe the particulars of those transactions.

You are not only the Sir Clement Cottrell at the general's levee, but you must also act as his *Nomenclator* abroad. Whenever you whisper in his ear the name of any officer, you should at the same time contrive, if possible, to drop some little hint of his character, or some anecdote, though it should be in the officer's favour. This will give  
the

the general an idea of your extensive knowledge.

If your general keeps a girl, it is your duty to squire her to all public places, and to make an humble third of a party at whist or quadrille ; but be sure never to win : if you should be so unlucky as to have a good hand, when against your general, renounce, or by some other means contrive to make as little of it as you can.

When your general invites any subalterns to his table, it will be unbecoming your dignity to take any notice of them. If there are any field-officers or captains invited, you may condescend to chatter and hob-nob with *them*. You may, indeed, be under the necessity of carving for the subalterns, that being your immediate office ; in which case, help them to the coarsest bits, and take care that they

are visited by the bottle as seldom as possible.

Whenever the general sends you with a message in the field, though ever so trifling, gallop as fast as you can up to and against the person, to whom it is addressed. Should you ride over him, it would shew your alertness in the performance of your duty.

In delivering the message be as concise as possible, no matter whether you are understood or not, and gallop back again as fast as you came. To appear the more warlike, you should ride with your sword drawn; but take care you do not cut your horse's ear off.

When the general reviews a regiment, it is your business to receive the returns. Just as the officer passes by, contrive to run against him, so as to make him lose the step, and put him out at least, if you cannot throw the whole division into disorder.



In coming with orders to a camp gallop through every street of the different regiments, particularly, if the ground is soft and boggy. A great man should always leave some tracks behind him.

Make it your business, in common, with the chaplain and adjutant, to collect all the news and scandal of the camp or garrison, and report it to your general. But be careful not to lose any particulars, especially if any officers of the general's regiment are concerned: this will prevent your being rivalled in his confidence.

You should always assume a mysterious air; and if any one asks you the most trifling question, such as, whether the line will be out at exercise to-morrow? or any other matter of equal importance, never give a direct answer; but look grave, and affectedly turn the discourse to some other subject.

ject. If a subaltern should only venture to ask you, what it is o'clock? you must not inform him, in order to shew that you are fit to be entrusted with secrets.

In a word, let your deportment be haughty and insolent to your inferiors, humble and fawning to your superiors, solemn and distant to your equals.

## C H A P. IV.

*To Colonels and Lieutenant-Colonels  
commanding corps.*

**A**S soon as you have arrived at the command of a regiment, you will form your conduct upon the model of your superiors, and be as despotic in your little department as the great Cham of Tartary. When giving orders to your regiment on the parade, or marching at the head of it, you will doubtless, feel as bold as a cock, and look as fierce as a lion; yet, when the commander in chief, or any other general officer approaches, it must all subside into the meekness of the lamb and the obsequiousness of the spaniel.

You are to consider yourself as the father of your corps, and must take care to exercise a paternal authority  
over

over it: as a good father does not spare the rod, so should not a commanding officer spare the cat-of-nine-tails.

It is your duty also to be very attentive to the good of your regiment, and to keep a watchful eye to its advantage, except when it clashes with your own. If you have interest with the commander in chief, always be careful to secure yourself good winter quarters; and if you have an inclination to any particular town, either from having a mistress there, or any other good cause, you need not mind marching your regiment two or three hundred miles to it. Though it will fatigue the soldiers and drain the officers purses, they will not dare to grumble at it, but will be happy, I am sure, to oblige their commander. Soldiers, you know, are merely intended for your use and convenience, just as the people are created for

for the pleasure of the kings who govern them.

But if there are your field-officers, or others, who have more interest at Court than yourself, you must direct your march where they think proper; I knew an instance of a major, who, being fond of the sports of the field, got his regiment ordered from their encampment in Kent into winter quarters in Cornwall. Hearing, however, when the regiment had got to Exeter in its way, that there was better shooting, as well as hunting, in Hampshire, he immediately posts to the War-office, and gets the order countermanded. They are accordingly faced to the right-about, and marched back again to the New Forest; where they arrive, the soldiers without shoes, and the officers without any inclination for hunting. Thus had they the pleasure of seeing the world, and of marching two hundred miles and back again, to the

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great advantage of the publicans, and the farmers' pigs and fowls on the road—because their major was a sportsman.

When promoted to the command of a regiment from some other corps, shew them that they were all in the dark before, and, overturning their whole routine of discipline, introduce another as different as possible ; I will not suppose of your own—you may not have genius enough for that : but if you can only contrive to vamp up some old exploded system, it will have all the appearance of novelty to those, who have never practised it before : the few who have, will give you credit for having seen a great deal of service.

If your regiment should not be provided with a band of music, you should immediately persuade the captains to raise one. This, you know, is kept  
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at their expence, whilst you reap the principal benefit; for besides keeping them always with your own company, and treating them as your own private band, they will, if properly managed, as by lending them to private parties, assemblies, &c. serve to raise you a considerable interest among the gentlemen of the country, and, what is of more consequence, among the ladies.

You cannot take too much pains to promote subordination in your corps. The subalterns of the British army are but too apt to think themselves gentlemen; a mistake which it is your business to rectify. Put them, as often as you can, upon the most disagreeable and ungentlemanly duties; and endeavour by every means to bring them upon a level with the subaltern officers of the German armies.

Never speak kindly to a non-commission officer. An austere and distant

behaviour gives them an elevated idea of your dignity; and if it does not tend to make them love you, it will at least cause them to fear you, which is better.

Whenever any oversight or misde-meanour, however trivial, is reported to have been committed by an officer, order him under an immediate arrest, without giving yourself the trouble of an enquiry. If he is an old offender, you should consider him as irreclaimable, and release him soon after. But if he has in general conducted himself with propriety, be sure to bring him to a court-martial. This will establish your character with the commander in chief, by shewing that you are determined to support discipline, and that the smallest offence will not escape your notice. Besides, it is more inexcusable in a good officer; for he has not the power of habit to plead as an alleviation: and you know

know it will be best to nip his vices in the bud.

Never stir without an orderly sergeant, particularly when you ride through a town, or from one regiment to another. If you have no other use for him, he will serve to hold your horse when you dismount.

When the regiment is on the march, gallop from front to rear as often as possible, especially if the road is dusty. Never pass through the intervals, but charge through the center of each platoon or division. The cry of—*open to the right and left—incline to the right*—marks your importance: and it is diverting enough to dust a parcel of fellows already half choaked, and to see a poor devil of a foldier, loaded like a jack-ass, endeavouring to get out of the way. In your absence, the same liberty may be taken by the adjutant.

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If on service you are appointed to the command of any garrison or post, guard every part, except that by which the enemy is most likely to approach: for if you prevent his coming, you can have no opportunity of shewing your valour. These parts you may reconnoitre yourself; and if you should be taken, you will at any rate get the character of an alert officer, having been the first to discover the enemy.

The command of five or six hundred men will give you some idea of your own consequence; and you will of course look down upon all but your superiors in the army, and gentlemen of high rank and fortune. Though your father may have been a pedlar or an exciseman, you will entertain a hearty contempt for all *bourgeois*; and though your education may have been confined to reading, writing, and the four first rules in Arithmetick, yet you  
are



are to consider every man as an ignorant and illiterate fellow, who knows not how to manœuvre a battalion.

CHAP.

## C H A P. V.

*To Majors.*

**E**VERY one knows it is the major's business to exercise the regiment on horseback. It appears, therefore, that the principal, and indeed the only, requisites for this office, are, the lungs of a *Stentor*, and a good seat in the saddle.

If you were ignorant of your business when promoted to this post, you need not give yourself much trouble to acquire a knowledge of it. The study of the manœuvres you may leave to the serjeant-major, and that of the exercise to the drill-serjeants: all that it is necessary for you to learn, is how to drop the point of your sword.

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Whenever you are to exercise the regiment, get the adjutant or serjeant-major to write out on a small card the words of command in the proper order : and if you cannot retain the manœuvres in your head, you may at least keep them in your hat ; which will answer the same purpose.

But however convenient it may be to keep your card in the crown of your hat, when you exercise the regiment on foot, it will not do quite so well on horseback. In this case you may fix it on the saddle or holster-pipe, or, which I would rather recommend, on the cap of the orderly drummer : but then you must take care that he sticks as close to you as *Eo*, *Meo*, and *Areo*.

In exercising the regiment, call out frequently to some of the most attentive men and officers to dress, cover, or something of that nature : the less they are reprehensible, the greater will

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your discernment appear to the bystanders, in finding out a fault invisible to them.

When it is your turn to be field-officer of the day in camp, be sure to keep the picquets waiting as long as you can, particularly if it should rain: this will accustom the soldiers to stand the weather, and will make them glad to see you. When you come, contrive by spurring your horse to make him prance, so that he may be near overturning the captain of the picquet; by which means you will get the credit of riding a spirited charger. But this must be done with caution; I knew a major, who, by an attempt of this kind, wound up a spirit in his horse that he could not lay, but was himself deposited in the dirt.

In going the rounds in the night, do not fail to keep the serjeant and escort in a good round trot. This will  
pre-

prevent their catching cold, and may be done without the least inconvenience, if you are on horseback.

Be sure to report any non-commission officer's guard, where the counter sign is pronounced wrong; especially, if it be a foreign word; that will demonstrate your knowledge of the language. That you may have some one to find fault with, hide your lantern, and steal upon them as privately as possible: but in visiting a quarter-guard, take care to give sufficient notice of your approach; and, should the officer be asleep, absent, or drunk, it would be ill-natured to mention it, and would besides injure the service, by making the corps of officers less respectable.

You must leave all the troublesome parts of your business to your deputy, the adjutant—for you have a property in him, as well as the commanding officer.



ficer. Your authority, however, extends only to the field; the other can command his services also in the closet. I take it for granted, then, that you will contrive to throw all the detail upon his shoulders; and shall therefore proceed to give him a few directions for his conduct.

CHAP.

## C H A P. VI.

*To the Adjutant.*

**A**N adjutant is a wit *ex officio*, and finds many standing jokes annexed to his appointment. It is on the happy application of these that his character depends. Thus, for example, when the men lose the step, you may observe, that their legs move like those before a hosier's shop in windy weather; if, in the platoon exercise, they do not come down to the *present* together, that they perform the motions just as they were born, one after the other. In short, by attending a little to the conversation of the wags among the non-commission officers and soldiers, you may soon form a very pretty collection; which certainly must be sterling, as they have stood the test of perhaps a century.

Read-

Reading and writing are very necessary accomplishments for an adjutant. If you cannot spell, you should keep Entick's dictionary in your pocket; but it will be of little use, if you know not the meaning of the words: so it will be best for you to get the serjeant-major, or some other intelligent non-commission officer, if there be such in the corps, to write your orders, letters, &c.

If you are deficient in knowledge of your duty, the word of command given in a boatswain's tone of voice, with a tolerable assurance, and the dextrous use of your oaken sapling, will carry you through till you get a smattering of your business.

The manœuvres performed by a regiment are merely intended to shew the skill of the adjutant; for, I apprehend, no other manœuvres are used upon service, but to march up to the enemy,

enemy, when the battalion feels bold, and to run away, when it is not in a fighting humour. All manoeuvres should therefore be calculated to astonish the spectators, and the more confused and intricate they are, the better. A good adjutant should be able to play as many tricks with a regiment, as Bresslaw can with a pack of cards. There is one in particular that I would recommend, namely, that of dispersing and falling in again by the colours; which you will find extremely useful, whenever you contrive to club, or otherwise to confuse, the battalion.

Whenever the colonel or commanding officer is on the parade, you should always seem in a hurry, and the oftner you run or gallop from right to left, the more assiduous will you appear: laying your rattan now and then over the head, or across the face, of some old soldier, for being stiff through infirmity,

firmity, will get you the character of a smart adjutant.

Should you make a mistake in telling off a division, shift the blame from your own shoulders, by abusing the serjeant or corporal of the division ; and when, at any time, there is a blundering or confusion in a manœuvre, ride in amongst the soldiers, and lay about you from right to left. This will convince people that it was not your fault.

Be sure to listen to every piece of scandal respecting the commanding officer, and tell him of it the first opportunity. Should none be thrown out, it might not be amiss to invent some. If he keeps a lady, wait upon her with the utmost respect, be her *chaperon* to all public places, feed her dog, and scratch the poll of her parrot—but take care that your attention to the lady does not make her keeper jealous.

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This might be of bad consequence to you.

Never suffer your roster to be questioned, and though it should be wrong, never condescend to alter it. The roster is the adjutant's log-book, which he is to manage as will be most conducive to his own private views. If you should therefore have a pique against any officer, you should contrive to send him upon the most dangerous and disagreeable duties; and these he cannot in honour decline: for you know, according to military rules, an officer must do the duty the adjutant orders him on first, and remonstrate afterwards. Probably he will never return—but if he should, it will not require much dexterity to acquit yourself, if you are upon a proper footing with the commanding officer. His friends themselves cannot say that you do him a real injury: for you put him in a way of being handsomely provided for, and

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of paying his debts in a soldierlike manner.

If you should be appointed adjutant to a regiment of militia, endeavour, as soon as you join the corps, to give the officers an idea of your military talents, by making it appear that you have seen a vast deal of service. Talk of your campaigns in Germany, and America, of the roasting you have experienced in the East and West Indies, and the cold of Newfoundland and Canada. If you have been in none of those places, no matter; they cannot dispute it, for you may swear none of them have been there.

## C H A P. VII.

*To the Quarter-Master.*

**T**HE standing maxim of your office is to receive whatever is offered you, or you can get hold of, but not to part with any thing you can keep. Your store-room must resemble the lion's den ;

*Multa te adversum spectantia, pauca retrorsum.*

Live and let live, is also another golden rule, which you must remember and practise, particularly respecting the contractor for bread and forage ; who, if he is grateful, will not forget your kindness : whence you may find it in reality a *golden* rule.

Observe the same with respect to straw and wood. It is mechanical, and unbecoming a gentleman, to be weighing them like a cheesemonger. When the soldiers are receiving straw for the hospital, order them to drop a truss or two at your hut in the rear. This will lighten their burthen, and make the task less toilsome. The same may be done with the wood for the hospital ; and the sick, especially the feverish, have little need of fire in summer.

Whenever any regimental stores are sent to the regiment, be sure to unpack them immediately, and seize upon the packages as your own perquisite. At the conclusion of a campaign take care also to secure the tents of the rear and quarter-guards.

When your regiment is ordered out of barracks, as you are the principal depredator, it will be necessary for you  
to

to get out of the way first. Go off therefore the day before, under the pretence of providing quarters for the regiment; by which means you will get out of the barrack-master's clutches; whom you need not previously be at the trouble of settling with; but leave him to do it, as well as he can, with the quarter-master of the corps that is to march into the barracks.

You need not mind, whether the provisions issued to the soldiers be good or bad. If it were always good, they would get too much attached to eating to be good soldiers,—and as a proof that this gormandising is not military, you will not find in a gallant army of 50,000 men a single fat man, unless it be a quarter-master, or a quarter-master-serjeant.

If the soldiers complain of the bread, taste it, and say, better men have eat much worse. Talk of the *bompernicle*,  
or



or black rye bread of the Germans, and swear you have seen the time when you would have jumped at it. Call them a set of grumbling rascals, and threaten to confine them for mutiny. This, if it does not convince them of the goodness of the bread, will at least frighten them, and make them take it quietly.

If any good rum or brandy should be delivered to you from the commissary's stores for the soldiers, or wine (which might possibly happen) for the hospital, you should rectify what was certainly a mistake in the contractors, by appropriating it to your own use, and substituting some of an inferior quality,—unless the commanding officer should insist upon this as his perquisite. By so doing you will prevent them from becoming dainty: for should they once taste such choice liquor, it might tend to make them discontented with their common allowance.

Always

Always keep a horse or two. It would be hard, if you could not have hay and corn enough to maintain them, considering how much passes through your hands.

When you go before the regiment to take quarters, be sure to get drunk with the quarter-master of the regiment that you are to relieve. Your quarter-master-serjeant may draw the billets, receive the store-rooms, &c. ; and if he also should get drunk with his brother quarter-master-serjeant, it is no great matter :—let the soldiers wait ; it will prevent their going into their quarters in a heat.

The quarter-master is considered as the steward of the colonel—You must therefore be careful to discharge your duty like a good steward, who has such a regard for his master, as to extend it even to his servants ; amongst whom, he does not forget himself ; but, know-  
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ing the value of his own services, takes care to secure to himself a due proportion; merely that his master may not be charged with ingratitude. You must on all occasions endeavour to inculcate the doctrines of witchcraft and enchantment: it will be difficult to account on other principles for the sudden and frequent disappearance of various articles out of your magazine,

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way, it would be inconsistent with your character, as a good protestant, to encourage those thieves the Jesuits, by using any of their medicines ; and you have a further inducement, as a patriot, to promote the consumption of British commodities, in preference to those of strangers.

By this art of substitution, a comfortable bowl of punch may, on an emergency, be compounded out of the medicine chest. Honey will serve for sugar, vitriol affords a good acid, and spirits of wine will do for rum or brandy.

As the soldiers are apt to be extremely troublesome to the surgeon of a regiment, and your mate may be ignorant, or too much of a gentleman, take a private man out of the ranks, and instruct him to act as your deputy. The principal part of his business will be to bleed, and dress sore backs ;—

as



as soon as he is expert in these, you may teach him to draw teeth ; which is soon acquired—but then he must take care, in performing this operation, to give the men a confounded pull ;—in order to shew them, that he is not a common tooth-drawer.

You may afterwards teach him the method of making up your prescriptions. If he should mistake arsenic for cream of tartar, it is not your fault, and it is a hundred to one it will never be found out ; and should he in bleeding divide an artery, or lame a soldier, it is an accident, you know, that might have happened to the first surgeon in England.

If a patient seems likely to cost you some trouble or medicine, report him incurable, and persuade the colonel or commanding officer to discharge him.

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Whenever you are ignorant of a soldier's complaint, you should first take a little blood from him, and then give him an emetic and a cathartic—to which you may add a blister. This will serve, at least, to diminish the number of your patients.

Keep two lancets; a blunt one for the soldiers, and a sharp one for the officers: this will be making a proper distinction between them.

If it is the custom of your regiment for the soldiers to be cured of the venereal disease *gratis*, give yourself but little concern about them, and be sure to treat them as roughly as possible. Tenderness towards patients of that kind, is only an encouragement of vice; and if you make a perfect and speedy cure, they will soon forget the inconveniences of the disorder: whereas if they carry some *mementos* about them, it will make them thenceforward  
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the more cautious. If you are paid for it, you may observe nearly the same conduct towards them; for experience shews, that cure them as often as you will, they soon contract it again; so it is only so much labour and medicine thrown away. Besides, as the ladies of the camp or garrison are pretty much in common, these men may, by circulating the disorder, procure you some practice among the officers.

If any of the soldiers' wives or children happen to be taken ill, never give them any assistance. You receive no pence from them, and you know *ex nihilo nihil fit*. Excuse yourself by saying, which you probably may with much truth, that you have not medicines enough for the soldiers.

When the flux or any putrid disorder reigns in the camp or garrison, be sure to procure wine for the use of your hospital. But consider, it is a great antiseptic,

septic, and also inflammatory; and therefore to be given sparingly to your patients. The remainder may serve to treat your brother surgeons and mates with; and indeed will be necessary to prevent your taking any infectious disorder.

Inoculation affords a pretty comfortable *douceur* to gentlemen of your profession, a guinea per head being allowed by Government for that operation. But as it is only to be performed with the soldier's consent, you should recollect, that the common people are commonly blind to their own interest, and therefore persuade as many as you can to agree to what is so much for their advantage. If you should by mistake inoculate a soldier that has already had the infection, it will not be attended with any ill consequences; and if you should perform the operation on one who is sickening with the distemper,

per, it will not in the least add to its malignity.

When a soldier receives a wound in a leg or an arm, immediately fix the tourniquet, though there may be the fairest prospect of preserving the limb. This will save you a world of trouble, and your patient a vast deal of pain. You will besides do him a most essential benefit, in sending him to enjoy the repose of Chelsea hospital, instead of being dragged from one place to another, at the perpetual risk of having his brains knocked out: partial evil is universal good; and the sacrifice of a limb may eventually be the preservation of all the rest of his carcase.



## C H A P. IX.

*To the Chaplain.*

**T**HE chaplain is a character of no small importance in a regiment, though many gentlemen of the army think otherwise. Yet if you are not more successful in the cure of the soul, than the surgeon is in that of the body, I must confess your 6s. 8d. a day would be a judicious saving. You have such hardened sinners to deal with, that your office is rather an ungracious one; but though the officers and soldiers are in general irreclaimable, the women of the regiment may perhaps be worked on with better effect.

If you are ambitious of being thought a good preacher by your scarlet flock, you must take care that your  
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sermons be very short. That is the first excellence in the idea of a soldier.

Never preach any practical morality to the regiment. That would be only throwing away your time. To a man they all know, as well as you do, that they ought not to get drunk or commit adultery : but preach to them on the Trinity, the attributes of the Deity, and other mystical and abstruse subjects, which they may never before have thought or heard of. This will give them a high idea of your learning : besides, your life might otherwise give the lie to your preaching.

You may indulge yourself in swearing, and talking bawdy as much as you please ; this will shew you are not a stiff high priest. Moreover, example being more effectual than precept, it will point out to the young officers the ugly and ungentlemanly appearance of the practice, and thereby de-

ter them ; just as the antients used to make their slaves get drunk, in order to render that vice odious to their children.

Remember that it is your duty, in common with the adjutant, to report all the little scandal of the regiment to the commanding officer ; whose favour you should omit no means to court and procure. This will set you above the malicious jokes of the young subalterns.

If any one offends you by rivalling you in your amours, or debauching your girl, call him out to give you the satisfaction of a gentleman : for though the christian religion and the articles of war both forbid duelling ; yet these restraints are not regarded by men of spirit.

If you understand any Greek or Latin, take every occasion of introducing

ducing sentences of them, tho' they be as little to the purpose and as unintelligible as those of Partridge or Lingo: and if you should confound the lines of the *Æneid* with those of *Propria quæ maribus*, it will not hurt your character for learning in the eyes of the officers: for it is ten to one that none of them understand a word about the matter.

Should you want to provide yourself with a deputy, be not over scrupulous respecting his character or morals. It would be a pity that he should be well disposed; for he would be sure soon to get spoiled among the officers. It is not necessary even that he should understand English: for, as they never listen to his harangues, any other language, or compound of languages, whether Cambrian, Erse, French, or Irish, will just answer the same purpose.

When any old campaigners bore the mess with their long stories of marches or battles, be sure to retort upon them with a history of your exploits at college,—of the desperate combats you have had with the *ruffs*, the sweating you were obliged to go through in the pig-market, and your hair-breadth escapes from the proctor's clutches—and though you may never have been at college at all, yet you must not fail to make people believe, that you have taken a master's degree at least, in one of the universities.



## C H A P. X.

*To the Paymaster.*

**Y**OUR's is as snug an office as any ; particularly when the regiment is upon foreign service ; but if you have given security, or have a commission to answer for your miscarriages, you must take care to go on fair and softly.

Make your accounts as intricate as you can, and, if possible, unintelligible to every one but yourself ; lest, in case you should be taken prisoner, your papers might give information to the enemy.

Always grumble and make difficulties, when officers go to you for money that is due to them ; when you are obliged to pay them, endeavour to make

make it appear granting them a favour, and tell them they are lucky dogs to get it. I dare say, they would be of the same way of thinking, if you had it in your power to with-hold it.

Be careful to keep up a right understanding with the agent; and be mindful of the old saying, When \*\*\* fall out ——— &c.

You must also keep upon good terms with the commanding officer; which will be no difficult matter, if he is extravagant and needy. Just before muster-day get leave, or take it, to be absent from the regiment, and pretend that it is upon the business of your office, as to receive money, get cash for bills, settle with the agent, &c. The longer you stay away the better, and the more to your credit: for shewing people that they cannot do without you, will give them a high idea of your importance; and

you will be sure of a hearty welcome and on your return.

Always close your accounts with *errors excepted*; and, as you give people this caution, it is but fair that the mistakes should be all in your own favour.

I know not whence they call your monthly pay-rolls *abstracts*; unless it be considering them as abstracted from all sound arithmetick, and just calculation.

When you pay any allowance to the officers and soldiers beyond the usual subsistence, be sure to deduct six-pence in the pound for agency, if they will let you. You certainly deserve that perquisite, for receiving people's money, keeping it in your hands no longer than you can help, and making use of the interest only.

CHAP.

## C H A P. XI.

*To Young Officers.*

**T**HOSE who are unacquainted with the service may perhaps imagine, that this chapter is addressed to the subalterns only—but a little knowledge of the present state of the British forces will soon convince them, that it comprehends not only the greatest part of the captains, but also many of the field officers, of the army.

The first article we shall consider is your dress; a taste in which is the most distinguishing mark of a military genius, and the principal characteristic of a good officer.

Ever since the days of Antient Pistol, we find, that a large and broad rimmed beaver has been peculiar to heroes.

heroes. A hat of this kind worn over your right eye, with two large dangling tassels, and a proportionate cockade and feather, will give you an air of courage and martial gallantry.

The fashion of your cloaths must depend on that ordered in the corps; that is to say, must be in direct opposition to it: for it would shew a deplorable poverty of genius, if you had not some ideas of your own in dress.

Your cross belt should be broad, with a huge blade pendant to it—to which you may add a dirk and a bayonet, in order to give you the more tremendous appearance.

Thus equipped you sally forth, with your colours, or chitterlin, advanced and flying; and I think it will be best in walking through the streets, particularly if they are narrow, to carry your sword in your right hand. For

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besides its having a handsome and military appearance, the pommel of the sword will serve to open you a free passage, by shoving it in the guts of every one who does not give way. He must be a bold man who will venture to oppose you; as by your dress he cannot in reason expect the least quarter. We are told that the Janissaries never wear their swords but upon duty; a practice more becoming Turks than Christians.

When you go to London, to see your friends in the country, or to any other part where your regiment is not known, immediately mount two epauletts, and pass yourself for a grenadier officer.

Never wear your uniform in quarters, when you can avoid it. A green or a brown coat shews you have other cloaths beside your regimentals, and likewise that you have courage to disobey

obey a standing order. If you have not an entire suit, at least mount a pair of black breeches, a round hat, or something unregimental and unmilitary.

If you belong to a mess, eat with it as seldom as possible, to let folks see you want neither money nor credit. And when you do, in order to shew that you are used to good living, find fault with every dish that is set on the table, damn the wine, and throw the plates at the mess-man's head.

If the dinner is not served up immediately on your sitting down, draw circles with your fork on the table; cut the table-cloth; and, if you have pewter plates, spin them on the point of your fork, or do some other mischief, to punish the fellow for making you wait.

On coming into the regiment, perhaps the major or adjutant will advise you to learn the manual, the salute, or

other parts of the exercise ; to which you may answer, that you do not want to be drill-serjeant or corporal—or that you purchased your commission, and did not come into the army to be made a machine of.

It will also be perfectly needless for you to consult any treatises of military discipline, or the regulations for the army. Dry books of tactics are beneath the notice of a man of genius, and it is a known fact, that every British officer is inspired with a perfect knowledge of his duty, the moment he gets his commission ; and if he were not, it would be sufficiently acquired in *conversaziones* at the main-guard or the grand sutler's. Thus a general officer, who had never before seen a day's service beyond the limits of Blackheath or Wimbledon-common, being ordered abroad, lands in America or Germany a *factus imperator*, though by very different means from those of Lucul-

Lucullus. If you have a turn for reading, or find it necessary to kill in that manner the tedious hours in camp or garrison, let it be such books as warm the imagination and inspire to military achievements, as, *The Woman of Pleasure, Crazy Tales, Rochester's Poems*; if you aim at solid instruction and useful knowledge, you must study *Lord Chesterfield's Letters*, or *Trusler's Politeness*; if you have a turn for natural philosophy, you may peruse *Aristotle's Master-piece*; and the *Trials for Adultery* will afford you a fund of historical and legal information.

If there should be a soberly-disposed person, or, in other words, a fellow of no spirit, in the corps, you must not only bore him constantly at the mess, but should make use of a kind of practical wit to torment him. Thus you may force open his doors, break his windows, damage his furniture, and put wh—s in his bed; or in camp  
throw

throw squibs and crackers into his tent at night, or loosen his tent-cords in windy weather. Young gentlemen will never be at a loss for contrivances of this nature.

Be sure also to stigmatize every officer, who is attentive to his duty, with the appellation of *Martinet*; and say he has been bitten by a mad adjutant. This will discourage others from knowing more than yourself, and thereby keep you upon an equality with them.

When ordered for duty, always grumble and question the roster. This will procure you the character of one that will not be imposed on. At a field day, be sure not to fall in before the regiment is told off and proved; and then come upon the parade, buttoning your gaiters, or putting on some part of your dress. Observe the same when for guard:—making 20 or 30 men wait, shews you are somebody.

When-



Whenever you mount guard, invite all your friends to the guard-room; and not only get drunk yourself, but make your company drunk also; and then sing, and make as much noise as possible. This will shew the world the difference between an officer and a private man; since the latter would be flea'd alive for the least irregularity upon duty.

Though it may, on some occasions, be proper and becoming a military man, to be watchful and to sit up all night, as in drinking, gaming, at a masquerade, &c. yet it would be an intolerable bore on guard; and, if near an enemy, and liable to be attacked, would argue a degree of apprehension that a good soldier should be ashamed of.

When a guard mounts with colours, they will make a handsome covering for the card-table at night,  
and

and will prevent it from being stained or soiled.

When you mount the quarter-guard in camp, as soon as the men have grounded their arms, put off your sash and gorget, and immediately go to your tent, or to the grand sutler's in the rear. The serjeant can take charge of the men in your absence; and should any general officers happen to come by, you will have an opportunity to shew your activity, in running across the parade to turn out the guard.

Never read the daily orders. It is beneath an officer of spirit to bestow any attention upon such nonsense; and the information you can get from them will not repay you for the trouble you are at, in decyphering them and reducing them into English. It will be sufficient to ask the serjeant, if you are for any duty.

Be

Be a constant attendant at the general officer's levees. If you get nothing else by it, you may at least learn how to scrape and bow, to simper and to display a handsome set of teeth, by watching closely the conduct of the aid-de-camps.

At exercise you must be continually thrusting out your spontoon, ordering the men to dress, and making as much noise as possible; in order to shew your attention to your duty.

When, at a field-day or review, you have taken post in the rear for the manual exercise to be performed, you have a fine opportunity of diverting yourselves and the spectators. You stand very conveniently for playing at leap-frog, or may pelt one another with stones; or, if there should be snow on the ground, with snow-balls. This will be a very harmless relaxation, as you have nothing else to do,

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and besides the diversion it will afford among yourselves, will contribute vastly to amuse the soldiers, and to prevent them from puzzling their brains too much with the business they are about.

If you are in the right wing during the firings, you must always keep a pace or two in front, till you order the men to fire; when it will be expedient for you to step into the rear, to prevent your face from being scorched with the powder; or you may order two or three file on the right of your platoon to do only the motions of firing; which, if it diminishes the fire of the battalion, will at least save his Majesty's ammunition.

Evening roll-calling, which drags one from the bottle, is a most unmilitary custom: for drinking is as essential a part of an officer's duty as fighting. Thus Alexander prided himself more on being able to take off half a dozen

dozen bottles at a sitting, than on all his victories over the army of Darius. If the colonel then should insist on the attendance of the officers, they should not fail to get a little mellow first, to shew the world that they are no milk-sops; but if any of the soldiers should presume to imitate their example, they must be confined and brought to a court-martial; for what is commendable in an officer may be in the highest degree reprehensible in a private man; and, as the dramatic poet observes,

*That in the captain's but a hasty word,  
Which in the soldier is rank blasphemy.*

When you are ordered to visit the barracks, I would recommend it to you to confine your inspection to the outside walls: for what can be more unreasonable than to expect, that you should enter the soldier's dirty rooms, and contaminate yourself with tasting their messes? As you are not used to



eat salt pork or ammunition bread, it is impossible for you to judge whether they are good or not. Act in the same manner, when ordered to visit the hospital. It is none of your business to nurse and attend the sick. Besides, who knows but you might catch some infectious distemper? And it would be better that fifty soldiers should perish through neglect or bad treatment, than that the king should lose a good officer.

Always use the most opprobrious epithets in reprimanding the soldiers, particularly men of good character: for these men it will not in the least hurt, as they will be conscious, that they do not deserve them.

When on leave of absence, never come back to your time; as that might cause people to think, that you had no where to stay, or that your friends were tired of you.

Make

Make trenches round your marquis in camp, to carry off the water, and to prevent the stray-horses from coming near enough to tread upon your tent-cords. The larger and deeper they are, the better; that such as stumble into them in the night may break their legs, which will be a useful warning to the other horses.

CHAP.

## CH A P. XII.

### *To the Serjeant-Major.*

**Y**OU should make all the inferior non-commission officers and soldiers call you, *Major* ; and when absent from the corps, if you are in one where the serjeant-major wears a laced coat and an epaulette, you may pass yourself for the major of the regiment—unless you should be ashamed of the character. This same liberty may perhaps be assumed by the drum-major ; but it is your business to prevent that rattler of parchment from taking too much upon him.

As you pass along the front of the regiment, when telling off the divisions from right to left, be sure to lay your rattan pretty smartly upon those you name right, left or centre file ;  
which.

which will impress it on their memory; as well as upon their shoulders.

In the detail for duty warn at least one or two men *per* company more than the number required, lest any of the latter should be taken ill, or should come to the parade drunk or ill dressed; and if any of the supernumeraries are your friends, or make it worth your while, you may let their appearance be reckoned for a guard. What happy times were those, when the adjutant and serjeant-major have been known to snack five or six shillings a day, by thus burning the parade!

In camp always give out the orders at some public house, or booth in the rear, at which you may oblige the orderly serjeants to spend their twopence each, for the benefit of the landlord: this in the morning will go farther towards making them drunk,  
than

than twice that sum in the afternoon ; and may therefore be at least considered as a piece of œconomy.

When a deserter is to be escorted by a party of your regiment, see if he does not want a shirt, a pair of shoes or stockings. If he does, you may venture to supply him with them at your own price, and charge them on the back of the route. If they are not the best of the kind, it is not very material ; as the corporal of that, or the next party, will make the prisoner sell or pawn them on the road ; and the less they fetch, the less the party will have to expend in liquor.



## C H A P. XIII.

*To the Quarter-Master Serjeant.*

**Y**OU must not suffer the quarter-master to engross all the emoluments of office to himself, but must take care to secure the small tithes, whilst you leave the larger to your superior. For as you share, like a faithful squire, all the fatigues and dangers of the field, it is but reasonable that you should come in for your portion in the plunder; and, you know, distributive justice is observed even amongst thieves.

Remember this maxim; that every thing may be converted to profit. This was fully exemplified by one of your calling, who being entrusted with the delivery of candles, used to dip them in hot water, in order to wash them

M                      clean;

clean ; whereby he paid himself for his trouble, by sweating off a considerable quantity of the tallow, which he sold to the chandler.

Thread, cartridge paper, and ball afford variety of good perquisites, and find a ready market.

In making up blank cartridges for reviews and field-days, do not fill them too full, as they might stick in going down the barrel of the piece, and so retard the firing. Besides, too much powder might cause it to burst, and thereby kill or maim the Lord knows how many men. And it is surely much better that you should sell a little powder to the grocer, or to the boys who wish to shew their loyalty on his Majesty's birth-night, than to have it burned in waste, or perhaps to do mischief to one's friends.

As

As you are undertaker-general to the regiment, take particular care, when a soldier dies, to see the external offices of his funeral performed with decency. If any young surgeon should want a body for anatomical purposes, you may safely answer it to your conscience to furnish him. To be cut up and quartered is the least a man can expect, who enlists into the army; and, after he is dead, it is ten to one, he will know nothing of the matter. It will lighten the burthen of the supporters, who have fatigue enough without that of carrying dead bodies; and whether you bury a corpse or an empty coffin, it is the same thing to the regiment, and to the parson—provided the latter has his fee.

In camp the rear affords your superior, the quarter-master, a plentiful harvest; and, doubtless, it is but just, that you should come in for the gleanings. Six-pence kept back from every

half-crown paid him by the futlers in the rear, is surely no unreasonable deduction ; and an odd six-pence and a dram, now and then, to overlook irregularities of particular huts, are no more than you may take without scruple.

As you are commandant of the pioneers, you may safely let two-thirds of them go to work for the neighbouring farmers, and take half their earnings. Should they be such ungrateful dogs as to grumble or complain, you may easily find jobs enough for them in camp, or perhaps contrive to get them a good flogging.

When your regiment is on the march, and you are sent to require the constable to press waggons, be sure to charge for a warrant. If you have none, it is no matter ; for you know you might have had one. And if you should allow the waggoners  
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to reckon a mile or two more than the real distance, or, on weighing the baggage, permit them to charge a hundred or two more than the real weight, the share you may get of the money will be but the just perquisites of your office.

In loading the baggage you have an opportunity of obliging the ladies of the regiment : but remember never to let an ugly woman ride in a convenient or elevated station, as she might disgrace the corps.

When you arrive at the place the regiment rests at for the night, be sure to require more billets than you have effectives in the division ; and, if the constable trusts you with them, secure two or three of the snugest houses for yourself, your friend the serjeant-major, and other particular favourites. The overplus you may convert into shillings and half-crowns, without any  
skill



skill in alchymy, or any knowledge of Dr. Price's powder.

Should the constable be suspicious, and insist upon seeing the men billeted off, tell him that you have a good many behind with the baggage, or sick men, the time of whose arrival will be uncertain : and should he after this persist in his obstinacy, take care that some of the guard knock him up twice or thrice in the dead of the night, to demand billets, as if just arrived. This will soon sicken him; and if you do not immediately benefit by it, some of your succeeding brethren may.

In delivering out the small mounting, at the annual cloathing, it is very hard if you cannot get an odd shirt, or two or three pair of shoes and stockings. It is but robbing the colonel, who makes no scruple of robbing the whole regiment.

When

When in camp, you will receive pick-axes, shovels, rakes, spades, and other tools from the artillery. These you may let out at so much per week to the labouring men in the neighbourhood; and should they be damaged or broken, you can produce evidence, that it was done in working.

## C H A P. XIV.

*To the Serjeant.*

**A**S by your appointment to the halbert, you are probably at the summit of your preferment (unless you have a pretty wife, sister, or daughter) you may now begin to take a little ease, and relax from that rigid discipline you observed, when corporal.

Into whatever company you are admitted, you must be careful to impress every one with an idea of your own consequence, and to make people believe, that the serjeants are the only useful and intelligent men in the corps.

You are not only to entertain a hearty contempt for your officers, but you must also take care to communicate

cate it to the soldiers. The more you appear to despise your superiors, the greater respect, you know, your inferiors will profess for you. You will easily contrive to humbug the young subalterns, and make them do just what you please in the company: but remember, that you are to assume the merit of their good-natured actions to yourself, and to impute all the others to their own impulse.

If you are appointed to teach the young officers their exercise, persuade them, which you will not find a difficult matter, that they are amazingly expert at it, and when addressing yourself to an officer, always call him *your honour*. This is sure to take with a stripling, who has just escaped out of the hands of his school-master.

When an officer calls you out of the ranks, run up to him with your halbert recovered, and run your fingers  
N in

in his eyes, and tread upon his toes. This he will attribute to your great alacrity in obeying his orders, mixed with a modest confusion in addressing yourself to a man of his importance; and you may afterwards tell it as a good joke among your brother serjeants.

Confine the soldiers as often as possible. This will afford you an opportunity of obliging them, or their wives, by getting them off again: and if your officer refuses to release them at your request, you may easily find means to bring them off at a court-martial, by softening or suppressing the evidence. Whenever you appear against a soldier, be sure to give him a great character, if called upon, in order to shew your impartiality.

When you command a guard, as soon as you have mounted, go to the next alehouse, and take post by the window,



window, in order to see that none of the soldiers quit their guard.

If your officer orders you to go the rounds for him in camp, take a lantern and a file of men, and visit all the sutlers' tents in the rear of the regiment. This will be better for the service, than visiting the guards; for disorders are much more likely to happen among the sutlers, and you will deserve a glass of gin or brandy at each booth for your trouble.

When you attend a general officer as orderly serjeant, you must stick close to him, wherever he goes, and walk with your halbert charged, the point towards the general; that in case he stops or turns suddenly, he may feel that you are near him and attentive to receive his orders.

When you are ordered to make cartridges, moisten the powder a little.

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This will make them roll up the neater, and you will get the more credit from the quarter-master for your workmanship. If, when they come to be used, they should be found unserviceable, it will be supposed, that they got damage in the quarter-master's store.

Should you be reprimanded by your officers for being intoxicated, and having neglected your duty, tell them, that some serjeants of other regiments, old acquaintances of yours, with whom you had formerly served, had come to pay you a visit, and that you were obliged to entertain them, as they do their brother officers, for the honour of the corps.

Whenever you mount guard in garrison or quarters, be sure to leave it upon record on the wainscoting or cieling of the guard-room. This practice, besides the ornament it will afford the room, will form a series of  
use-

useful and authentic historical tables for the regiments that succeed you.

If you have a knack at recruiting, and can get sent on that service with an extravagant young subaltern, your fortune is made; that is, if you mind what you are about; as the more he runs out, the more you ought to get. You may quiet your conscience, should it be troublesome, by considering, that if you did not fleece him, some one else would, and that the money so acquired is better in your pocket, than in that of a pack of whores and gamblers. Nor need you fear any thing from his future resentment in case of a discovery; as it is ten to one but the consequences of six months recruiting will oblige him to sell out, and quit the regiment for ever.

Whenever you beat up in a country town, though your officer should be the youngest ensign in the army and  
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the son of a valet de chambre, you must not fail to dub him captain, and stile him his honour at every word. You may also give it out, that he is heir to a very large estate in some county between Cornwall and Berwick, but you forget the name. This will give him importance, and, what is more material, credit; and as to the untruth, it is at worst a white lie; and, besides, if detraction is a vice, its opposite must be a virtue.

In enlisting men never mind whether they are fit for the service or not. If they can't serve, they are the more likely to pay the smart.

But remember, that you are to furnish at least one, if not two or more young recruits, for every man you enlist. This will be doing a benefit to the parish: for you give them in lieu of the recruit you trepan one much younger, who consequently must be of  
more

more value, as his country will enjoy the advantage of his services the longer, and he will have the more time before him to be useful to the parish.

In any dispute respecting the inlisting of a man, you may safely give your testimony or oath for the fairness of the transaction, although you were not present, nor saw any thing of the matter. It is for the good of the service.

As soon as a recruit has spent all his bounty money, which with your kind assistance, and that of the drummer and party, he may do in a very short time, endeavour to put him out of conceit with the service, that he may attempt to desert. This, if he is an innocent country fellow, he will manage in so awkward a manner, as to enable you to retake him immediately. Here is at once twenty shillings dead, over and above the regimental reward ;  
and



and it will moreover procure you the character of a vigilant and alert officer. Should he however escape, bring in a long account against him for necessities and money advanced, though you never furnished him with a single article, or lent him a farthing. This you may safely do, as he will not be present to contradict you, and should he be afterwards taken, the word of a deserter, guilty of perjury, cannot be put in competition with your accounts.

If on service you detect a soldier marauding, be sure to seize upon the plunder, whether pig, lamb, goose, or other poultry ; but as it may be the first offence, and punishment may deter him from the like practices in future, you need not report him to the commanding officer ; and if you eat the stolen goods, it is only to prevent the sin of waste.

When

When you have the rear-guard in camp, you may take up your station at one of the huts, and leave the guard to the corporal. It is no more than what is done by the officer of the quarter-guard; and if the rounds should by accident fall upon your guard, whilst you are missing, say, that you were just gone to visit your sentinels, or to quell a riot.

In order to turn the penny, contrive, when in camp, to let your wife keep a hut in the rear, and sell ale and gin. The standing orders only say, *you* shall not do it, but do not prohibit *her*. Here you may settle with your men; and if they spend the greatest part of their pay in liquor, it is no more than they would do elsewhere, and you may as well have their money as another.

## C H A P. XV.

*To the Corporal.*

**A**S you are but one step below the serjeant, and often have the honour of representing him, as launce-serjeant, you may justly avail yourself of many articles of the advice to that officer. Some few particulars are solely applicable to your appointment : relative to these I shall give you a hint or two.

It is your office to post the sentinels, and to see that they are properly relieved ; and a disagreeable office it is in a dark, cold, and stormy night. You may therefore in bad weather save yourself that trouble, and send the relief by themselves. This will be a means of teaching them how to perform their duty, when corporals ; and  
surely

surely they must be very unfit for sentinels, if they cannot be trusted alone.

When commanding an escort with a deserter, I need not tell you, that his shirt, shoes, and stockings will produce a pot or two of beer, or a glass of gin. The prisoner is sure to get supplied, when he comes to the regiment, and it is but one flogging for all. Persuade him likewise to pretend lameness; you may then charge double for carriage by a cart, horse, or return chaise, and drink the produce; besides saving your labour and shoes.

When you escort a man to the field for punishment, you may let him drink as much liquor as he can procure. This will in some measure deaden the pain, and prevent him from disgracing himself and the regiment, by becoming what the drummers term a nightingale.

On the rear guard, when the sergeant has left you (which he will infallibly do, soon after he has mounted) you become commanding officer, and have an opportunity of obliging the soldiers. Permit, therefore, at least one-half of them to go about their business till it is their turn to stand sentinel; and, should they be missed, say that they are just gone into the rear, or that one of them was taken in a fit, and that the rest are gone with him to his tent, or to the surgeon.

Make it a general rule to prevent all disorders and crimes from coming to the ears of the officers, as it would only vex them, and make them uneasy. Besides, the contrary would procure you the hateful title of a tell-tale or informer.

Teach the young recruits the proper use of their arms, when off duty—as, to make a horse to hang their wet  
cloaths



cloaths upon with the firelocks—with the bayonet to carry their ammunition loaves, toast cheese and pork, and stir the fire : it might otherwise contract rust for want of use.

In order to get the character of a smart fellow at exercise, loosen the pins on the stock of your firelock, to make the motions tell. If the piece get damage by it, it is no great matter ; your captain, you know, pays the piper ; and it is right that he should pay to hear such martial music.

You are always to be provided with a cloaths brush on the parade, and likewise with some flour and tallow to set the soldiers hair to rights. As you pass along the rear, you may throw a little now and then upon the officers coats, in order to make them appear uniform.

As

As it is the business of a good non-commission officer to be active in taking up all deserters, when, on the march, or at any other time, you observe any ducks, geese, or fowls, that have escaped the bounds of their confinement, immediately apprehend them, and take them along with you, that they may be tried for their offence at a proper season. This will prevent the soldiers from marauding.

When the regiment attends divine service, should you be ordered to stay without to keep the soldiers to their devotions, see if there is not an ale-house near at hand, that commands a view of the church door, whence you may mostly conveniently watch their motions.

Your's is a troublesome and fatiguing office. You must, however, bustle through as well as you can; doing your duty, when you cannot help

[ III ]

help it ; and keeping up your spirits  
with good geneva, when it is to be  
had, and with the hopes of arriving  
at the ease and dignity of the halbert.

CHAP.

## C H A P. XVI.

*To the Drum-Major.*

**Y**OU are first painter to the regiment, and your principal duty is, to instruct the young academicians in the art. Your pencils indeed are none of the softest; and though you do not aim at the grace of *Albano*, or the expression of *Raphael*, you must not yield to *Titian* in colouring.

You are also the *Paris*, if not the *Adonis* of the regiment; and every judge of discipline will estimate the goodness of the corps by the taste and splendour of your trappings.

The title of major is as applicable to you, as to the serjeant-major. You should therefore insist on that appellation from all your drummers; and as  
you

you are, in all probability, the handsomest, the finest, and the youngest fellow of the two, you will be the most likely to pass for the major of the regiment.

It being your office to furnish the pencils for the young painters, vulgarly called cat-o'-nine-tails, and as you are paid by the delinquents for the use of them, you may, in imitation of other contractors, put them off with second-hand ones; which by a little washing will be as clean as ever, and will be much softer to the back. If this is not discovered by the adjutant, or he is good-natured enough to wink at it, no harm is done; your customers will have no reason to complain; besides, if they do, it is no more than you are to expect: for do what you will, one may venture to affirm, you never send any of them away well pleased. Indeed this contract for whipcord might be made a very beneficial

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one,



one, was it not for that unfeeling dog, the adjutant: as you could, if left to yourself, accommodate a customer, according to any price he is willing to give, from the stiffest cord to the half-twisted packthread.

At a punishment do not fail to exercise your rattan on your drummers, whether they favour the delinquent or not. It will keep them up to their duty; and every one knows it is better to prevent an offence, than to punish it: besides, it may save your own shoulders from being rubb'd over by the adjutant's towel.

As you are post-master-general to the regiment, much is to be gained from that department; and that by the simplest means—only by charging the officers and men for letters they never get, and double postage for what they really receive. With respect to many of the officers, such as the commanding

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ing officer, adjutant, quarter-master, &c. you may safely do it, as the money does not come out of their own pockets, but is charged in the contingent bill. They will not, therefore, give themselves much trouble about the matter; and, as to the private men, you, as a non-commission officer, may easily brow-beat them, should they question your accounts: and, in matter of conscience, as you are often obliged to trust a long time for the payment of their postage, it is barely getting a little more than common interest for your money.

Besides the appointments already mentioned, you are also officially keeper of the *menagerie* to the corps. If the colonel, or any other officer, has a large wolf, or bull-dog, or the regiment any tame animal that follows it, such as an ape, a bear, a fawn, or a goat, they will assuredly be placed under your care. This will be a regular in-

come to you ; and you may occasionally bring in a bill for depredations, which they never committed.

In winter-quarters, or at any time when you have nothing else to do, flog all your drummers round. If they do not then deserve it, it is pretty certain they lately have, or shortly will: besides, correction tends to keep them good, when they are so.

If you should hear of any person being dangerously ill in any town or garrison, when you beat through the streets, take care to brace your drums well, and to make a confounded noise, as you pass under their windows. This may sometimes procure you a perquisite.

In marching by the commanding officer, when you beat the short troop, look as stern as possible, and appear as if you could eat him up at a mouthful.

When

When you pitch on a place for practice in garrison, let it be as near the town as possible, that the officer may constantly hear the boys rattling their parchment, and be thereby convinced, that you do not suffer them to be idle. If it is close to an hospital, a public school, or a church, it will be so much the better; as the sound of the drums will amuse the sick, divert the boys, and keep the old women awake at their devotions.

Though from your martial appearance, and the noise you make at the head of your squad of drummers, we must suppose you a fellow of courage, yet you do not exactly answer the metaphysical definition of a man. You are without dispute an *animal bipes, risibile*; but the furniture of your hat will not suffer you to be called *implumis*; and with all your risibility, we cannot allow you to be a rational being: for what can be more unreasonable,

sonable, than first to beat a man without any provocation in an unmerciful manner, and afterwards to come upon him for damages?

*Qui capit, ille facit.*



F I N I S.



